

Update on the review of adult learning

To date the service and the scrutiny committee has been looking at the review of the Adult Learning Service, which covered among other things - relationship with other providers and the future direction of the service. Most recently on the 18th June the third in a series of workshops with users of the service and VCS providers was held. A report detailing the main points raised is being presented to the Committee.

The original scope of the review was focussed on the Adult Learning Service, however, there are also strong links to other forms of adult learning provision within the council and by other providers, as well as links to learning for young people. In addition, responsibility for adult learning strategy has recently been allocated to the Corporate Strategy division, while responsibility for management of the council's service remains within service departments.

We are using this opportunity to scope a wider review of youth and adult learning, looking at youth and adult learning across the council and beyond. The rationale for a wider scope is to ensure that the cross cutting issues are appropriately captured and to ensure that the review considers matters from the perspective of the citizen and their journey of life long learning. However, it is clear that there are four distinct aspects to look at: learning for young people; adult learning; wellbeing; and pathways to employment.

Work is underway to scope the review, including what the process will look like and timescales. This work starts from the above rationale and the information gathered in the workshops will help scope the review, as well as forming an important part of the evidence. It will be important to be clear on the scope because this will not be a service level review of the Adult Learning Service, but a review of what our strategy is, the outcome of which will provide the framework for any service level decisions.

The lead officer for the review is Claire Webb, Head of Policy, Corporate Strategy